



# FOWNHOPE PARISH COUNCIL



**Present:**

Parish Councillors:

- D Clark            Chairman
- J Boothman
- D Colley
- A Corby
- P Daines
- J Hardwick
- F Jolley
- J Jones
- H Mansell

J Bateman      Parish Clerk

Four members of the public were present.

Ward Councillor Pemberton had sent her apologies for being unable to attend.

PC James was in attendance and was consulted throughout Item 17.

**1. Apologies for Absence.**

**Decision:** Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs D Pascoe, G Williams and M Williams.

**2. Declarations of interest.** Cllr Hardwick declared a non-prejudicial interest in Item 13.

**3. Minutes of the last meeting.**

**Decision:** The minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed as an accurate record.

**4. Public Consultation.** Members of the public were invited to comment on, or ask questions about, any of the agenda items. Some support was expressed for a 50 mph limit which was to be discussed as Item 15.

**5. Payment of Invoices.**

**Decision:** The following payments were approved:

- Clerk's salary to 31 December (£805.64)
- Clerk's expenses to 31 December (£92.94).
- Postage Stamps (£24.20)
- FRFA for Room Hire (£20).

**6. Precept and Budget For FY 2011/2012.**

**Decisions:**

**ACTION**

**Clerk**

**Clerk**

The precept for FY2011-2012 would be £16,000.

Clerk

The budget for FY2011-2012 would be as detailed in Annex A.

Clerk

**7. Replacement of the Bench at Court Garden.**

**Decisions:**

The sum of £287 exc VAT was approved for the purchase of a hot dip galvanised bench from Caple Ltd for Court Garden.

Clerk

The bench would be installed by the Lengthsman using the Supplementary budget.

Cllr Colley

**8. Improvements to the Entrance to the Recreation Field.**

**Decision:** The sum of <130 exc VAT was approved for the purchase and installation of shrubs to improve the appearance of the entrance to the Recreation Field. A further sum of £90 exc VAT was approved for weed suppressants, wood chips and membrane to be used by the contractor.

Cllr Jones

**9. Refurbishing the Council's telephone kiosk.**

**Decision:** The sum of £98 exc VAT was approved for the repainting of the Council-owned telephone kiosk. This sum was to include the cost of materials.

Clerk

**10. West Villas Pavement.**

**Decision:** With the co-operation of the owners of the Hairdressers Salon, the Lengthsman would remove the pillar which was currently impeding progress along the pavement. Costs would be met from the Supplementary budget.

Clerk  
Cllrs Colley &  
Jolley

**11. Planning Application DMS/102775/C for Wye Leisure Health Club.**

**Decision:** The application would be recommended for approval.

Clerk

**12. Update on P3 Projects.** Most P3 activity had been temporarily suspended during the current bad weather.

**13. Public Meeting on Footpaths.** Thirty eight people had attended the Meeting held on 12 Nov to discuss Lea Brink and other footpaths in the area. A report on the Meeting had been circulated to all councillors. There had been an overwhelming consensus on the measures which should be taken to overcome various problems which currently existed. There was some concern over whether these views would be adequately represented in the report which the Rights-of-Way Office were going to submit to the Regulatory Committee in advance of their next meeting.

**Decisions:**

The Council endorsed the very clear views expressed at the meeting.

The Council would lobby Herefordshire Council to ensure that the deal to re-route footpaths FWD4 and FWD7 was carried through as a priority and without any further unnecessary delay.

**Cllr Clark**

A letter would be sent to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee to ensure that they were fully aware of the mood of the Meeting.

**Cllr Clark**

**14. Update on Lengthsman Projects.** An update on current, past and planned Lengthsman work was given.

**15. Road Traffic Speed Limit.**

Pixley PC had amended their proposal for a 50mph Speed Limit to apply throughout Herefordshire to one which only applied to major highways within their area. Nevertheless, there might be some merit in considering a similar initiative in Fownhope's area.

**Decision:**

Pixley PC would be requested to keep the Council informed on developments in their proposal.

**Clerk**

Public opinion would be canvassed through the Flag prior to any further discussion.

**Clerk**

**16. Cedar Tree on Common Hill.** The Tree Warden had assessed a cedar tree adjacent to Little Barn on Common Hill for safety and concluded that there was no problem. The occupier of the property had been given suitable reassurances.

**17. Deterrence of Vandalism.** The recent spate of vandalism throughout the village on Halloween had highlighted the need for all measures possible to be taken locally to prevent a re-occurrence.

**Decisions:** Notices would be placed in future editions of the Flag:

**Cllr Jolley**

Advising parishioners of what action to take when incidents occurred and who to contact.

**Cllr Jolley**

Calling for further volunteers to act as Neighbourhood watch Co-ordinators.

**Clerk Desig**

Encouraging local volunteers to become Special Constables.

**18. Heart of Oak Diamond Jubilee.** The Heart of Oak Society was proposing to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 in a similar manner to the celebrations which had been held for the Golden Jubilee in 2002.

**Decision:** The Council would write expressing their support for the initiative.

**Clerk**

**18a Clerk's contract of Employment.** This item was added to the agenda, with the support of all present, as an expedient to allow the new Clerk to take over before the next meeting. The draft Contract had been circulated to all councillors prior to the Meeting.

**Decision:** The Contract was approved.

**Clerk Desig**

(Sec's note: As the Contract is considered to be confidential, it will be distributed separately from these minutes, on a limited circulation.)

## 19. Minor items and Announcements.

Herefordshire Council were now seeking a site meeting to discuss the location of Lucksall Bus Stop and those councillors involved would be liaising directly to arrange a suitable date.

A summary of the latest FRFA Committee Meeting was given. Of note, The FRFA had received a substantial legacy for the long-term upkeep of the Pavilion.

The application for the Field to be registered under the QE2 Fields Scheme would shortly be submitted. The FRFA was being kept informed of this initiative by the Council's FRFA reps.

A request for a safety rail to be installed where Scotch Firs joined the main road would be considered at the next meeting.

A talk on 'Herefordshire Futures' had been offered and might prove suitable for the next Annual Parish Meeting.

The Clerk was thanked for his past services to the Council and presented with a spiffing farewell present to remember them by.

G Williams  
Chairman

## Annex A to 1 Dec 10 Minutes

### Draft Budget – FY 2011/2012

<b>Forecast Expenditure</b>	
Mem hall PWLB repayment	£1,957
Clerk salary	£3,800
Clerk expenses and travel	£700
HALC subs	£300
Insurance	£1,500
Rospa play equip inspect fee	£60
Website	£100
Audit costs	£200
Meeting room hire	£400
Councillor training	£500
Lengthsman supplement	£1,500
Misc expenses	£1,500
Churchyard care contribution	£1,000
FRFA Revenue Support Fund	£1,000
Parish Improvement Projects	£1,220
<b>Total</b>	<b>£15,737</b>

<b>Addition to Ring-Fenced Funds</b>	
Rec field track maintenance	£500
Rec field fund	£1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,500</b>
<b>Forecast Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£17,237</b>
<b>Forecast Income</b>	
Precept	£16,000
Wayleave	£90
NatWest Interest	£20
Gvt Bond	£1,127
<b>Total</b>	<b>£17,237</b>

Notes:

Any in-year surplus of income over expenditure will be added to the Council's reserve funds for expenditure on Parish improvement projects.

Any in-year surplus of expenditure over income will be covered by the Council's reserve funds.

Ring-fenced funds at EOY 2011/2012 will stand at:

Rec field track maintenance	£2,099
Rec field fund	£6,732
Election expenses	
Venture Play Area	£1,000